



## NY RENEWS

In response to Governor Cuomo's State of the State address NY Renews—a coalition of over 150 environmental justice, faith, labor, business, and community organizing groups across the state and I stand with the following statement:

We thank Governor's Cuomo commitment in protecting our environment and the attachment of the Climate Leadership Act, thus, opening the door for all of New Yorkers, the Governor, and this body to lead and be our country's voice of reason, equity, empowerment, and inclusivity, and want to thank all the Assembly Members (past and present) and their staff for devoting countless of hours and being the champions of New York's Climate & Community Protection Act for three sessions; and (as we have sat and listen) with the upper chamber of this body, we are confident to come to an understanding (people and elected officials alone) that the climate crisis is real; real lives have been affected by poor and reactionary short-term and long-term planning; and an untamed and unregulated capitalism (that despite lifting many out of poverty and driving our economy and people to greater heights) it has also destroyed and displaced many working, rural, and people of color; produced some of the highest levels of income, infrastructure, and healthcare inequalities since the Gilded Age throughout our state; and to take Bronx as a case study to explain the whole, in our *barrios* and neighborhoods, closer to noxious industrial facilities and waste sites we are 66% more likely to be hospitalized for asthma and upper respiratory infections and 13x more to be like me, a person who works for a living and is of color; and I thank our Senate for having climate equity and CCPA as their top legislative priority for this legislative cycle.

For years, the Climate and Community Protection Act has represented a true climate justice agenda for our state.

New Yorkers from Erie County to Montauk have been calling for bold action on climate, and NY Renews welcomes the major climate policy proposed in the executive budget. It is heartening to see progress towards a fossil-free New York.



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However, truly equitable climate policy must come from the communities with the most at stake and must outline a path to an economy-wide renewable energy future. The Climate and Community Protection Act was developed through a process deeply grounded in the needs of communities on the frontlines of climate change, from New York City to Buffalo. Our statewide coalition represents thousands of New Yorkers through over 150 community organizations, including environmental justice and labor leaders.

In the Climate Leadership Act of the executive budget, we are pleased to see aggressive goals for moving the electricity sector to clean and renewable energy. However, any truly comprehensive plan to tackle climate change needs more specific deadlines, planning processes, and accountability for moving our whole economy off of fossil fuels than are currently included.

Additionally, we are concerned about provisions related to the consideration of market-based mechanisms that may include cap-and-trade agreements. We strongly believe the state must aim for true emissions reduction goals that transition New York to being powered by safe, sustainable energy.

The Climate and Community Protection Act has the level of comprehensive planning that NY needs, including prioritized investment for communities of color and workers:

- The CCPA sets a specific timeline for eliminating greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide.
- The CCPA mandates that 40% of state energy funds are invested to benefit environmental justice communities – to lower emissions, create jobs, and lead to better health outcomes for low-income communities and communities of color that currently bear disproportionate health burdens from burning fossil fuels.
- The CCPA mandates that state-supported green jobs have fair wages and are accessible to women and people of color.



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We look forward to working with the Assembly and Senate leadership to make sure that New York's climate and energy agenda addresses the needs and input of frontline communities and workers, by passing the Climate and Community Protection Act.

I ask you to respect our scientist concerns and our environmental realities and hardships; to never forget the working man and women who works hard everyday to provide a better life for their loved ones and their children, to think about all the destruction and displacement Hurricane Sandy produced, the neighborhoods and barrios that where helped first and those who were forgotten, to work with us (NY Renews, the Governor, and the people), to get the community involved and hear their stories and their concerns, and that together, we pray for wisdom, come together, protect the Earth that God has given us, and commit ourselves to long-term planning, large scale mobilization, equity, and inclusivity.

What we have now is the opportunity to reestablish broken bonds; reinstate public trust and faith and government; and proving to all the New Yorkers that government works, we can be bold, prudent, and protect the environment, act with urgency and expediency, and will always put our state and it's workers, middle-class families, marginalized and rural communities, and people of color first.

I pray you for your support. Our country, environment, and families are counting on you.

With love and gratitude,

*Arnoldo Alonzo*

(Campaign Coordinator | NY Renews)